(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total amount to be given by Government?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Reconstruction/revival of sick Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) is a continuous process. Enterprise specific measures are taken in this regard by the concerned administrative Ministries/ Departments and the Management in consultation with various stakeholders including workers etc. Some of these measures include referring of sick industrial CPSUs to Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), financial and business restructuring including hiving off/closure of unviable units, infusion of fresh funds, mobilization of additional resources through Government guarantee and sale of surplus lands and other assets, rationalization of manpower through VRS, improved marketing strategies, cost control measures etc.

As per available information, recently BIFR has sanctioned rehabilitation schemes in respect of 8 subsidiaries of NTC Limited to revive viable units and close the unviable ones after giving VRS to affected employees. The likely cost of revival package of NTC approved by the Government/BIFR is Rs. 3900 crores (approx.). Of this, Rs. 625 crores is provided as wage support by Government for 2 year period and rest through sale of surplus lands and other assets.

Displaying of obscene pictures

†2555. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the absence of any effective law, obscene pictures are being displayed in newspapers, magazines and T.V. Channels which are vitiating Indian culture, civilization and tradition and Government are unable to keep a check on the same;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the constructive steps taken by the Government in recent years to keep a check on exhibition of such pictures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati has Programme and Advertisement Codes. Doordarshan and AIR strictly abide by these Codes while telecasting/broadcasting programmes. The Code *inter-alia* does not permit broadcast/telecast of any programme/advertisement which contains anything obscene or defamatory. Similarly the programmes of all Satellite Channels when transmitted through cable television networks in the country are required to adhere to the programme and advertising codes prescribed under the Cable Television Network (Regulations) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. These rules *inter-alia* provide that no programme should be carried in the cable service which contains anything obscene and defamatory and offends good taste and decency.

The Government has constituted a Committee of Officers from the Ministries of Information and Broadcasting, Home Affairs, External Affairs, Defence and Law to render advice on complaints regarding any programme of any channel not being in conformity with the prescribed Programme Code. Government has constituted another committee to look into violations of the Advertising Code.

All films, including advertisement films, intended for public exhibition in India are required to be certified by the Central Board of Films Certification (CBFC) in accordance with the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and the guidelines issued thereunder. The Board ensures that human sensibilities are not offended by vulgarity, obscenity or depravity.

Government does not interfere in the internal functioning of the Press. However, Press Council of India (PCI), a self-regulatory body for Press, has been established for the purposes of preserving the freedom of the Press and maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and news agencies and to inculcate principles of self-regulation among the Press. PCI has issued guidelines *viz.*, Norms of Journalistic Conduct for newspapers and news agencies and journalists which, *inter alia*, deal with eschewing obscenity and vulgarity.